

تقرير رصد مراكز الدراسات

THINK TANK MONITORING REPORT

Issue No.15 (16th - 30th September 2015)

العدد الخامس عشر (30-16 أيلول/سبتمبر 2015)



وحدة المعلومات
Information Unit



عمران
للدراسات الاستراتيجية
OMRAN
For Strategic Studies

iu@omrandirasat.org

www.OmranDirasat.org



أيلول 30، 2015

معهد واشنطن



لوري بلوتكين بوغارت

<http://goo.gl/BpKoV6>

نحو تقييم واقعي لاستقبال دول الخليج للسوريين

يحيط التباس كبير بمدى استقبال دول الخليج العربي للسوريين الفارين من الحرب في بلادهم. إذ ذكرت الإحصائيات الواردة في الأسابيع الأخيرة أن عددهم يتراوح ما بين الصفر والملايين. إن فهم كيفية استيعاب دول الخليج للسوريين حتى الآن يحوي أهمية كبيرة عند النظر في كيفية توفير هذه الدول الغنية والمنخرطة سياسياً لأكبر قدر ممكن من الدعم للاجئين السوريين. ويطال هذا النقاش بشكل خاص المملكة العربية السعودية والإمارات العربية المتحدة وقطر والكويت.

أيلول 30، 2015

معهد واشنطن



فابريس بالونش

<http://goo.gl/lv7DLC>

الضربات الروسية الأولية في سوريا لا تستهدف تنظيم «الدولة الإسلامية»

في الثلاثين من أيلول/سبتمبر، قام سلاح الجو الروسي، بالتعاون مع الجيش السوري، بعملية قصفه الأولى في ثلاث من محافظات البلاد. ووفقاً لمصدر أمني سوري تحدث مع «وكالة فرانس برس»، "قامت الطائرات الروسية والسورية بشن عدة غارات ضد مواقع إرهابية في حماة وحمص واللاذقية، في شمال غرب البلاد ووسطها".

أيلول 23، 2015

معهد واشنطن



فابريس بالونش

<http://goo.gl/y4Q2DI>

مدينة اللاذقية هي "كعب أخيل" الأسد

في الأشهر القليلة الماضية ازداد الجيش السوري ضعفاً وخسر الكثير من مواقعه، وهو تطوّر يفسّر نشر روسيا لقواتها في الآونة الأخيرة في سوريا، علماً أنها لم تكن في السابق ترسل سوى مستشارين عسكريين وموظفين فنيين لدعم الجيش السوري.

أيلول 30، 2015

مركز عمران للدراسات الاستراتيجية**أحرار الشام بعد عام طويل**

مثلت الشهادة الجماعية لقيادات حركة أحرار الشام الإسلامية في 9/9/2014م، أحد التواريخ المأساوية والمؤسفة في ذاكرة الثورة السورية عامة، وحركة أحرار الشام خاصة، والتي دخلت في طور آخر يتجاوز رهان التماسك إلى التكيف والتطور خلال عام كامل من قيادة (أبو جابر الشيخ) للحركة بعد الحادثة، على مستوى بنية الحركة والمشروع السياسي والجناح العسكري والعلاقة مع الفضاء الثوري والجهادي الذي أعيد تشكيله في منطقة نفوذ الأحرار مع حملة الإمارة التي قامت بها جبهة النصرة.

أحمد أبازيد

<https://goo.gl/fXYx9c>

أيلول 16، 2015

مركز عمران للدراسات الاستراتيجية**مآلات الحراك القائم في السويداء**

إن ما تتمتع به محافظة السويداء من خصوصية طائفية وجغرافية، مقابل طبيعة نظام الأسد، وما قد يطرأ بينهما من متغيرات إقليمية ودولية؛ يضع الحراك القائم في المدينة أمام مجموعة من السيناريوهات المحتملة، والتي تتراوح من إدارة ذاتية إلى صدام مسلح مع النظام أو استرجار لمواجهة مباشرة مع تنظيم الدولة "الإسلامية" مقابل احتمالية الانقسام الداخلي في الكتلة الدرزية.

مركز عمران للدراسات

<https://goo.gl/euiq13>

أيلول 20، 2015

المركز العربي للأبحاث ودراسة السياسات**موازين القوى الإقليمية بعد انهيار العراق**

تعالج هذه الدراسة تأثير سقوط العراق في موازين القوى الإقليمية وفي مستقبل المنطقة، وترى أن القوة العراقية كانت حجر الزاوية في النظام الإقليمي الشرق أوسطي الذي ارتبط إلى حد بعيد بتحالفات وتوازنات الحرب الباردة. لكن نهاية الثنائية القطبية وهيمنة الولايات المتحدة على النظام الدولي بعد سقوط الشيوعية، ساهما في القضاء على حال التوازن الإقليمي التي كانت مطلبًا من متطلبات التنافس الأميركي - السوفيياتي ومفرزًا أساسًا من مفرزاته.

مروان قبلان

<http://goo.gl/lvNj9z>

أيلول 27، 2015

المركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجيةالمركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجية - القاهرة
THE REGIONAL CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES - CAIRO

وحدة العلاقات الإقليمية

<http://goo.gl/IGKtCg>**تصعيد لافت: مستقبل تسوية الأزمة السورية بعد الانخراط العسكري الروسي**

تحولت روسيا إلى رقم مهم في الأزمة السورية، بدءًا من استخدامها حق الفيتو ثلاث مرات لمنع صدور قرار دولي بإدانة نظام الرئيس السوري بشار الأسد، مرورًا بطرحها مبادرة تفكيك الأسلحة الكيماوية السورية التي حالت دون توجيه ضربة عسكرية للنظام السوري ودفعت الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية إلى إسقاط "خطوطها الحمراء" في سوريا، وانتهاءً برفعها مستوى وجودها العسكري في سوريا، بما قد يؤثر على كافة التحركات الدولية والإقليمية للبحث عن مخرج سياسي للأزمة السورية.

أيلول 16، 2015

المركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجيةالمركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجية - القاهرة
THE REGIONAL CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES - CAIRO

منى مصطفى محمد

<http://goo.gl/SzXkNm>**من عائشة إلى إيلان.. أبرز المشاهد المحركة للضمير العالمي**

صورة الطفل السوري الغريق ليست الأولى التي تسهم في تحريك تعاطف وتضامن الرأي العام العالمي مع اللاجئين، لكن الأمر ليس في مجمله مجرد تعاطف إنساني مع لاجئين تدفقوا على السواحل الأوروبية هربًا من جحيم الصراع فعمليات التوظيف السياسي تتدخل من وراء هذه الصور، وتطرح تساؤلات حول لماذا تركت القوى الكبرى الأزمة السورية لتصل إلى هذه الحالة الكارثية.

أيلول 2015

المركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجية**حالة الإقليم - أغسطس 2015**المركز الإقليمي للدراسات الاستراتيجية - القاهرة
THE REGIONAL CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES - CAIRO

المركز الإقليمي للدراسات

<http://goo.gl/uqvzwK>

يناقش العدد عددًا من التفاعلات الدولية والإقليمية، أهمها: كيف تستفيد المنظمات الإرهابية من دول الشرق الأوسط؟، احتمالات انحسار تنظيم داعش في الإقليم، سياسة عمان الخارجية في سياقات إقليمية استقطابية، دعايات صعود الأقليات في منطقة الشرق الأوسط، رؤى مرشحي الانتخابات الرئاسية الأمريكية لقضايا الشرق الأوسط، العوائد الاقتصادية لتجميد العقوبات الدولية على إيران.

أيلول 21، 2015

مركز كارنيغي للشرق الأوسط**أزمة اللاجئين في الأردن****مركز كارنيغي
للشرق الأوسط**

إذا ما تُركت من دون معالجة فسوف تشكّل إرهابات لحالة من عدم الاستقرار. وإذا ما أراد الأردن مواجهة التحديات الوطنية والاستمرار في توفير ملاذ آمن للاجئين السوريين، سيحتاج إلى زيادة الدعم الدولي.

ألكساندرا فرانسيس

<http://goo.gl/f2P0Th>

أيلول 1، 2015

مركز الشرق العربي للدراسات الحضارية والاستراتيجية**الشورى الإسلامية آلية تنزيل وتقرير ودعوة ومدافعة**

يتعرض الكاتب لنظام الشورى في الإسلام، وكيف أنه أصيل في الفكر السياسي الإسلامي وتشكل الشورى جوهر النظام السياسي الإسلامي ومبناه ويعرض في هذا الصدد ما كتبه الماوردي والفقهاء والمتكلمون ومنظرو الديمقراطية الإسلامية حديثاً وتأثيرها بالفتوحات.

عبد الكريم مطيع الحمداوي

<http://goo.gl/0CQrCh>

أيلول 19، 2015

المركز السوري للعلاقات الدولية والدراسات الاستراتيجية**الشرق الأوسط .. من الفوضى الخلاقة إلى الاستقرار البناء**

يسترجع الكاتب المعاهدة التي تبعت إسقاط الخلافة العثمانية من قبل الغرب بقيادة إنجلترا وفرنسا، التي وصفها الكاتب الأمريكي دتفيد فرومكين بمعاهدة السلام من أجل إنهاء السلام، ونتائجها الكارثية كما أرادها الغرب عندما جلبوا لمجتمع مسلم يركز على قيم ومبادئ، علمانيتهم ونظمهم السياسية والاقتصادية التي تختلف تماماً عنها، وعهدوا بتنفيذها لوكلاء سياسيين محليين ما كان سبباً لصراعات داخلية علمانية قومية - إسلامية، تطورت بعدها لتأخذ ملامح وعناوين سياسية ومذهبية طائفية.

د. حسين قطريب

<http://goo.gl/CxIq5N>

أيلول 30، 2015

مدونة الدكتور سمير تقي**الالتزمة السورية بعد قرار مجلس الأمن 2118 (2013)**

وضع صدور قرار مجلس الأمن رقم 2118 في 27 سبتمبر (أيلول) 2013 لتفكيك الترسانة الكيماوية للنظام الالتمة السورية حيز التدويل عملياً، وأصبحت أحد الملفات الرئيسية على الساحة الدولية، حيث دخلت هذه الالتمة في تفاعلات جديدة بناءً على المعطى الدولي الأخير، ومن المتوقع أن تعيد الكثير من القوى السياسية السورية حساباتها، سواءً في المعارضة أو الموالدة، خاصة أنّ "جنيف 2" أصبحت في موقع اهتمام دولي كبير. فقد تعدّ اقليمياً ودولياً الخروج من الصراع وفقاً للآليات التي كانت مطروحة خلال العامين والنصف الماضيين، كما أدّى المعطى الأمريكي بكل ما حملة من متغيرات إلى بلورة الكثير من الحسابات، وفي هذه الورقة محاولة لتحليل أبعاد الالتمة السورية بعد قرار مجلس الأمن المتعلّق بالأسلحة الكيماوية للنظام السوري.

د. سمير التقي - د. عارف دليلة

<https://goo.gl/iimJcw>

Arab Reform Initiative

9/16/2015

Young refugees in Jordan's Zaatari camp are hungry for knowledge

While Europe is witnessing the massive inflow of Syrian refugees who have made long and perilous journeys in the hope of better prospects, millions of others still remain in Syria's neighbouring countries, caught in a state of liminality or languishing in sprawling refugee camps.



BASSMA KODMANI

<http://goo.gl/FAFzN0>**Atlantic Council**

9/25/2015

Slaughter In Syria: Mass Homicide And Echoes Of Bosnia

Critics of presidential passivity really want hundreds of thousands of uniformed Americans thrust into a foreign war. The killings are horrific, but reflect age-old hatreds and grudges. The opposition is hapless, and it too does bad things: there are "no good guys" and the conflict itself defines complexity.



FREDERIC C. HOF

<http://goo.gl/mtQe1u>**Atlantic Council**

9/21/2015

Syria: The Sole Portal for Progress

Obama administration commentary on developments in Syria plumbed new, uncharted depths on September 17, when White House spokesman Josh Earnest laid blame for the failed "train-and-equip" program on "critics" of the administration who had allegedly touted the endeavor and forced it upon the president as "the recipe for success in Syria."



FREDERIC C. HOF

<http://goo.gl/pU7XTM>

Atlantic Council

9/24/2015

PKK-Turkey Conflict Could Hurt Kurdish Fight Against ISIS in Syria

The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) operating in Syria and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Iraq have become indirect partners of the Western anti-Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL) coalition.



WLADIMIR

<http://goo.gl/Lkxjci>
Atlantic Council

9/25/2015

The Implications of Russia's Syria Intervention for Turkey

Russia's recent deployment of aircraft and military equipment in Syria runs counter to Turkey's efforts to unseat Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The introduction of Russian aircraft and surface-to-air missiles prompted many to argue that Moscow is seeking to prevent the establishment of a US- and Turkish-backed air-exclusion zone over parts of northern Syria.



AARON STEIN

<http://goo.gl/elZzhL>
Atlantic Council

9/27/2015

Syria: The Assad Conundrum

Distinguished intellectual and former Obama administration official Philip Gordon has called for a fundamental Syria policy recalculation centering on the status of Bashar al-Assad. Gordon's basic thesis is that if Washington and its partners drop their demand for preemptive victory—Bashar's immediate departure—Iran and Russia may see their way clear to shuffling their noisome client off stage within a period of time broadly acceptable to all concerned.



FREDERIC C. HOF

<http://goo.gl/39nBbk>

Atlantic Council

9/28/2015

Syria: Barrel Bombing as an “Active Measure”

Fans of television interviewer Charlie Rose have long known not to be surprised when Mr. Rose manages, in a flawlessly professional manner, to elicit intelligence on the essence of his guests character.



FREDERIC C. HOF

<http://goo.gl/bD4s4S>**Atlantic Council**

9/28/2015

Assessing Putin’s “Fight Them There Not Here” Strategy in Syria

The recent increase in Russian military involvement in Syria is widely seen as an expansion of Moscow’s influence in the Middle East. While offensive ambitions may well be present, defensive motives also appear to have played a role in Putin’s decision-making.



MARK N. KATZ

<http://goo.gl/OttcWq>**Carnegie Middle East Center**

9/23/2015

Putin’s Plan: What Will Russia Bomb in Syria?

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s decision to order his military into Syria may simply have been the gut reaction of a hard-power ruler who, for lack of tools other than a hammer, can imagine no problem other than a nail.



ARON LUND

<http://goo.gl/liPY10>

Carnegie Middle East Center

9/17/2015

The Syrian Opposition's Man in Brussels: An Interview With Mouaffaq Nyrabia

For European officials working on Syria, Mouaffaq Nyrabia will be a familiar name, as it will be for many who followed the struggles of Syria's pre-2011 opposition.



ARON LUND

<http://goo.gl/GzIRol>
Carnegie Middle East Center

9/18/2015

Syrian Rebels Agree on Joint Approach to UN Peace Talks

On September 15, a large group of Syrian rebel factions issued a joint statement about the Syrian peace process initiated by United Nations special envoy Staffan de Mistura.



ARON LUND

<http://goo.gl/yhqBkz>
Carnegie Middle East Center

9/17/2015

Why Are So Many Asylum Seekers Making the Run for Europe Now?

Despite recent diplomatic efforts to end the Syrian conflict, the Assad regime continues to be buttressed by its Russian and Iranian allies.



YEZID SAYIGH

<http://goo.gl/iWvTfZ>

Center for Strategic & International Studies

9/23/2015

Russia in Syria: Hybrid Political Warfare

According to reliable press reports, President Vladimir Putin has already made major changes in the Russian military role in Syria.

 | CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

ANTHONY H. CORDESMAN

<http://goo.gl/32bCpo>**Centre for European Policy Studies**

8/31/2015

Syria: An end to the hands-off policy

According to the UN, the civil war in Syria has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced around 12 million – more than half of the population,¹ thus triggering the worst refugee crisis from a single conflict in a generation. Ever-growing numbers of asylum seekers cross the Mediterranean, placing the EU member states' already disgraceful 'welcome' under greater strain.² Yet as a result of the worsening situation in Syria, the summer also saw glimmers of hope in the form of unexpected diplomatic activity. This raises the twofold question of whether geopolitical actors in the Middle East consider that the conflict has now reached a tipping point and, if so, which objective the EU should be pursuing to resolve it.



STEVEN BLOCKMANS

<http://goo.gl/qVF2Gh>**Chatham House**

9/16/2015

Syrian Refugees in Jordan Confronting Difficult Truths

Civil war in Syria has caused a refugee crisis in neighbouring Jordan, raising the latter's population by at least 8 per cent. For Jordanians, the highly visible presence of many thousands of refugees living in their midst – mostly in urban areas, rather than camps – has raised fears over competition for resources and opportunities.


 CHATHAM HOUSE
 The Royal Institute of International Affairs

DORIS CARRION

<https://goo.gl/NAQXEx>

Chatham House

9/8/2015

Why aren't Gulf countries taking in Syrian refugees?

The Gulf countries, the wealthiest states among the Arab world, are among the largest donors to Syrian refugees. But they do not take in refugees to their own countries: none of them officially recognize the legal concept of refugeehood. This is not a specific issue of hostility to Syrian refugees: the six Gulf monarchies have never signed the international conventions on refugee rights and statelessness, which began to be established after the Second World War.

**CHATHAM
HOUSE**
The Royal Institute of
International Affairs

JANE KINNINMONT

<https://goo.gl/7OF1aQ>**Council on Foreign Relations**

9/25/2015

It's Time to Rethink Syria

If somehow the tragic trajectory of the conflict in Syria were not apparent enough, several dramatic developments in recent weeks have come together to make it impossible to ignore. The most obvious is the influx into Europe of tens of thousands of desperate, hungry refugees—so devoid of hope in their homeland or neighboring refugee camps they are willing to risk drowning and starvation in the hope of finding a better life for themselves and their children.

**COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS**

PHILIP GORDON

<https://goo.gl/wpgSDa>**Council on Foreign Relations**

9/15/2015

The Realities of Using Force to Protect Civilians in Syria

These fatality estimates used by the Times should therefore be viewed with an understanding of the inherent difficulties of reporting from within Syria, and the conscious or unconscious biases often found within NGOs.

**COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS**

MICAH ZENKO

<http://goo.gl/xbAEyN>

Eurasia Review

9/22/2015

THE ISLAMIC STATE – UNDERSTANDING AND COUNTERING ITS STRATEGY

The Islamic State (IS) has been fighting the combined military might of the US-led coalition for over a year without having been contained or defeated as was promised by world leaders at the start of the war.



SANU KAINIKARA

<http://goo.gl/SbCWFj>**Eurasia Review**

9/24/2015

Nightmares And Dreams: The Islamic State's Mysterious Revolution

It was little more than a year ago that Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), took the pulpit in the recently-captured great mosque of Mosul in northern Iraq.



HILLEL FRADKIN

<http://goo.gl/FsZ3jT>**European Institute of the Mediterranean**

9/4/2015

Syria: Indifference or Complicity?

The years go by and the counter continues to register an increasing number of casualties, wounded, displaced people and refugees. Statements with good intentions by the so-called “international community” are accumulating. Initiatives are multiplying as well. Is a pacific revolution turned armed confrontation finally giving way to the monster embodied by the Islamic State? Is this enough, as the international attitude seems to indicate, to forget the roots of the problem? To turn the page of the peoples and rally to the dictators?



SALAM KAWAKIBI

<http://goo.gl/ZeK2q8>

Geopolitical Monitor

9/17/2015

Refugee Crisis Reminds Europe There Is A Real War In Syria

Refugees are not the problem; war is. If the war in Syria doesn't stop, the flow of refugees will only continue. The refugee wave, marked by the dramatic image of tens of thousands of Syrians trying to reach Germany from Hungary, is a phenomenon that until very recently has been confused, perhaps deliberately, with mass migration. There is an important difference: migrations are frequently driven by financial or social exclusion.



ALESSANDRO BRUNO

<http://goo.gl/EpJi4B>**German Institute for International and Security Affairs**

9/16/2015

Backbone of the Syrian Revolt Inclusion of Rural Sunnis Key for International Efforts to End Conflict

Syria's descent into civil war following the military crackdown on the peaceful protest movement in 2011 has thrust the country's rural Sunnis to the forefront. As the civil war dragged on, the countryside became the recruiting reservoir for rival jihadist factions after the demise of the Arab- and Western-backed Free Syrian Army. Divisions within the Syrian political opposition based in Istanbul also delayed the formation of a provisional government. Foreseeing a strengthened Iran, some of these jihadists have put out feelers to the West. Whether and how they could contribute to conflict resolution needs to be explored. Yet on the ground, the jihadists have largely failed at administering the areas they have captured. That evolving disparity – disenchantment with the militants and lack of appetite for a return to Assad's rule – offers an opportunity to reactivate the dormant opposition government, which Germany initially backed but then let drift.



KHALED YACOUB OWEIS

<http://goo.gl/FX3uuo>**Human Rights Watch**

9/22/2015

Egypt: Thousands Evicted in Sinai Demolitions

The Egyptian military's mass home demolitions and forced eviction of about 3,200 families in the Sinai Peninsula over the past two years violated international law, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

<https://goo.gl/Tjm7ON>

Human Rights Watch

9/20/2015

Iraq: Militia Abuses Mar Fight Against ISIS

Iraqi government-backed militias carried out widespread destruction of homes and shops around the city of Tikrit in March and April 2015 in violation of the laws of war, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Militiamen deliberately destroyed several hundred civilian buildings with no apparent military reason after the withdrawal of the extremist armed group Islamic State, also known as ISIS, from the area.



VIKTOR MIKHIN

<https://goo.gl/wLJISh>

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

9/20/2015

Russia's New Game Plan

On September 9, geopolitics unexpectedly hit the news headlines when Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov made an important statement about the ongoing talks between Moscow and Islamabad on the delivery of Russian multirole Mi-35M attack helicopters and the latest Su-35 fighter jets. Ryabkov said Pakistan is Russia's "closest partner" and the ties between the two countries are evolving beyond the military sphere to include other sectors such as energy.



P. STOB DAN

<http://goo.gl/0EncNW>

International Crisis Group

9/25/2015

New Approach In Southern Syria

The Syrian war rages on, its devastating civilian toll rising with no viable political solution in sight. Diplomacy is stymied by the warring parties' uncompromising positions, reinforced by political deadlock between their external backers. The U.S. is best placed to transform the status quo.



INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

<http://goo.gl/CDvwsf>

Iran Review

9/26/2015

US Trying To Change Its Strategy In Syria

John Steinbeck, famous US writer and thinker, once wrote that when he looked at the chimneys of the White House, he wondered what big volcanoes of illusions were hidden beneath them. Also a while ago, Anthony H. Cordesman, former political advisor to US Department of Defense in Syria affairs, noted that the United States follows a strategy of chaos in Syria.

Iran Review

ALIREZA REZAKHAH

<http://goo.gl/U219BW>**Middle East Institute**

9/21/2015

Putin Comes to Syria: Contexts and Consequences

The Russian escalation in Syria will create a flurry of diplomatic activity to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis and a fresh attempt to confront ISIS in Syria, but the conditions for success on both fronts are still absent. The intervention is likely to lead to further escalation of the conflict with no resolution of the political or security stalemates.



PAUL SALEM

<http://goo.gl/1Ujx2R>**Middle East Policy Council**

9/21/2015

What Does Russia's Increased Presence in Syria Mean?

Russia's decision to become more overly involved in the Syrian civil war has generated a considerable amount of discussion in the region. Though Russia has made no secret of its support for Syrian president Bashar Assad in the past, Moscow has recently deployed a great deal of military supplies and arms to Damascus.


**Middle East
Policy Council**

MIDDLE EAST POLICY

<http://goo.gl/MFGvVh>

Neo Eastern Outlook

9/23/2015

The Secret ISIS Safe Havens Nobody Wants You to Know About

With recent talk of mysterious Russian forces inside Syria, forces no one has been able to locate, including Syrian President Assad, wondrous possibilities open to redress the both regional and global threat that ISIS represents.



GORDON DUFF

<http://goo.gl/ABHwlh>**Neo Eastern Outlook**

9/22/2015

Washington Has Now Lost the Middle East

It's not at all surprising except in how fast it's going. Within the space of little more than a decade, since the ill-fated Bush Administration decision to invade and occupy Afghanistan then Iraq in March 2003, the United States of America has managed to lose strategic influence and allies across the entire Middle East. Not only the Shi'ite Iranians, whom President Obama believes are not beholden to Washington, but also for the first time Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab states and Egypt are in the process of finding new allies or cooperation partners, and they are in the east, no longer the west.



F. WILLIAM ENGDAHL

<http://goo.gl/L5SMQh>**Neo Eastern Outlook**

9/27/2015

Syria: Who is Responsible for the Massacre?

The extremely unfortunate and violent events in Syria permanently occupy headlines of the world's media. They are described in the smallest detail in so many analytical reports, that it has become obvious who exactly was responsible for the chaos happening in Syria and in other Arab and European countries.



VIKTOR MIKHIN

<http://goo.gl/hZiCVh>

Neo Eastern Outlook

9/24/2015

On Russia-Israel “Clash” Over Syria

Recent developments have shown that the conflict in Syria is reaching new heights of tension as Russia and Israel built up their power-base there. A rapid Russian build-up in Syria, which, according to the Western media includes warplanes and anti-aircraft systems, worries Israel, since its jets have been continuously bombing this neighbouring Arab country.



SALMAN RAFI SHEIKH

<http://goo.gl/5XMw9L>**Observer Research Foundation**

9/28/2015

Syria To Shake Obama-Putin Handshake In New York

As U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in New York later on Monday, the issue of Syria has received fresh impetus.



HIMANI PANT

<http://goo.gl/oKEq5A>**Rajaratnam School of International Studies**

9/28/2015

Muslim Refugees In Europe: An Existential Threat?

The recent influx of refugees into Europe has been mislabeled as “immigration” and portrayed by local right-wing politicians as an existential threat. This European nationalist rhetoric could legitimise and provoke violence by Salafi-jihadis.



**S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**
A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

AIDA AROSOAIE

<http://goo.gl/UJ0KZm>

Rand Corporation

9/28/2015

The Islamic State We Knew

The group calling itself the Islamic State poses a grave threat, not just to Iraq and Syria but to the region more broadly and to the United States and its global coalition partners. A deadly and adaptive foe, the Islamic State seemed to come out of nowhere in June 2014, when it conquered Mosul. However, the Islamic State of today is the direct descendant of a group that Iraq, the United States, and their partners once fought as al-Qa-eda in Iraq and then as the Islamic State of Iraq.



HOWARD J. SHATZ

<http://goo.gl/920cF8>**Rand Corporation**

9/24/2015

How the Current Conflicts Are Shaping the Future of Syria and Iraq

Continued fighting has seen the diminishing strength of Syria's secular rebels and the ascent of its most extreme jihadist component, represented by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Despite open warfare with other rebel formations in Syria, ISIL was able to seize control of much of eastern Syria and western Iraq, which prompted American bombing.



BRIAN MICHAEL JENKINS

<http://goo.gl/KkIEPS>**Syria Comment**

9/15/2015

Syria: Liwa Thuwar Al-Raqqa: History, Analysis And Interview

Liwa Thuwar al-Raqqa (the Raqqa Revolutionaries Brigade) was initially formed in September 2012 as a merger of several local rebel groups in Raqqa province following on from the Assad regime's loss of the northern border town of Tel Abyad, at a time when the regime was forced to pull back from large swathes of northern Syrian border areas to focus on defending more vital areas- in particular the provincial capitals.



AYMENN JAWAD

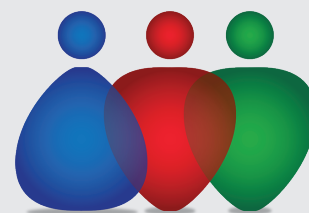
<http://goo.gl/dBgSq3>

Syrian Network for Human Rights

9/27/2015

The Most Notable Violations in Idlib Governorate “Blood-Soaked Olives”

Idlib governorate was subjected to a number of attacks and a systemized destruction policy that was not restricted to front lines or battlefields alone. Based on our daily documentation, we noticed that most of the attacks were on vital facilities and densely populated neighborhoods, tens of kilometers away from battle fields. Therefore, the rate of civilian victims was alarming compared to that of gunmen. Syrians welcomed UNSC resolution 2139 that was issued on 22 February 2014 which stated that “all parties have to immediately cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs.” Nonetheless, government forces did not cease its operations or its attacks against civilians.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

SYRIAN NETWORK

<http://goo.gl/ldGa9q>

Syrian Network for Human Rights

9/18/2015

Toxic Gases in Syria: Unlimited Security Council Breaches 125 Breaches of UNSC Resolution 2118, including 56 Breaches of Resolution 2209

On 21 August 2013, the Syrian government committed a massacre in Al Ghouta, in Damascus suburbs. The UN Security council issued resolution 2218 that condemned the killing of civilians that resulted from the chemical attack, affirmed that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of the international law, and stressed that those responsible for any use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. Later, resolution 2235 was issued and condemned in the strongest terms any use of chlorine as a weapon in Syria.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

SYRIAN NETWORK

<http://goo.gl/YnJBLl>

Syrian Network for Human Rights

9/29/2015

Eastern Ghouta in Syria: “A Land Watered by Blood”

Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs witnessed a systematized and deliberate shelling and destruction campaign by government forces that were not restricted on frontlines, but it concentrated on vital facilities, markets, infrastructure and densely populated areas, which is tens of kilometers away from frontlines.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

SYRIAN NETWORK

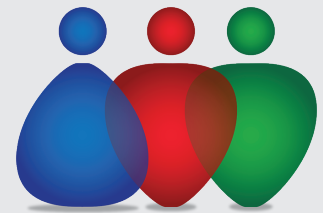
<http://goo.gl/0AIJeu>

Syrian Network for Human Rights

9/30/2015

Forced Disappearance in Syria Gone Without a Trace

Since the beginning of the popular uprising in March 2011, detention and forced “disappearances” have occurred on a daily, and increasing, basis. Exacerbating the situation is the fact that a variety of parties rule different areas of Syria. The regime of Bashar al-Assad holds the greatest number of arbitrarily detained people, accounting for 96 percent of forced disappearances. The remainder are the responsibility of ISIS, the Kurd Self-Management Forces and other armed opposition groups.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

SYRIAN NETWORK

<http://goo.gl/nzhRf6>

The Institute for National Security Studies

9/30/2015

Syria: Time to Reformulate the Rules of the Game

In practice, Syria is already split internally and divided into areas under the influence of external powers. As the Russians deploy, the coastal region will all but come directly under their control. Northern Syria, especially the Kurdish region, is under Turkish influence. The central axis of Syria – from Damascus to Homs and Aleppo – and the Syrian-Lebanese border area, with Hezbollah’s help, under Iranian influence. Eastern Syria is the battlefield for the war by the US-led international coalition against the Islamic State. Israel must thus undertake an in-depth analysis of the changing rules of the game, in face of Russia’s involvement and its determination to shape the future of Syria.



UDI DEKEL

<http://goo.gl/qx1B2I>

The Institute for National Security Studies

9/21/2015

The Middle East Visits Europe: The Ramifications of the Refugee Crisis

The European Union finds itself in the throes of a far-reaching humanitarian crisis, as waves of refugees and asylum seekers flock to its gates in numbers not seen since the end of World War II. The hundreds of thousands who have already arrived and the hundreds of thousands who are expected to reach the shores of Europe before the end of the year have taken EU member states by (incomprehensible) surprise and consequently, have found these states unprepared to deal with the influx. At the same time, the EU is in the throes of a deep identity crisis.



SHIMON STEIN

<http://goo.gl/pwkRHc>

The Institute for National Security Studies

9/10/2015

Russia's Reconciliation Efforts in Syria

For some time, Russia has invested significant diplomatic efforts to revive the dialogue among the warring factions in Syria. Moscow recently sponsored two meetings among the sides, and further rounds of talks will reportedly take place soon. Moreover, while it continues to support the Assad regime, Russia is also in close contact with the Syrian opposition, Arab national leaders and senior officials, the United States, and European nations in order to advance a process that could perhaps, with UN cooperation, help end the crisis. In tandem, Russia announced that it is joining the fight against the Islamic State. These moves should be examined in light of both Russia's efforts to restore its status in the Middle East, which was undermined in recent years, and its increasing assertiveness on the international arena vis-à-vis the West, primarily over the crisis in Ukraine.



ZVI MAGEN

<http://goo.gl/GHQHwM>

The International Center for the Study

9/10/2015

Victims, Perpetrators, Assets: The Narratives of Islamic State Defectors

Virtually nothing is known about those who quit: the 'defectors' who didn't like what they saw, abandoned their comrades, and fled the Islamic State. Yet their stories could be key to stopping the flow of foreign fighters, countering the group's propaganda, and exposing its lies and hypocrisy.



PETER R. NEUMANN

<http://goo.gl/PWHPQn>

The International Relations and Security Network 9/17/2015

Russian Deployment to Syria: Putin's Middle East Game Changer

This backgrounder provides several reasons why Russia has deployed troops to Syria. It surmises that Moscow is seeking ways to 1) prop up the Assad regime; 2) thwart the US and Turkey from establishing a possible 'ISIS-free' buffer zone; and 3) embarrass the US by positioning Russia as the leader of a new international anti-ISIS coalition.



HUGO SPAULDING

<http://goo.gl/KiSOMw>

The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies 9/15/2015

How can Israel help the Syrian people?

The fact that Israel came into existence at the expense of a Palestinian state has been the cause of much hostility between Israel and its Arab neighbors and was the reason for many armed conflicts between them. However, the revolutions and armed struggles that have erupted across the Middle East in the last few years, including the Syrian civil war, have reshaped alliances across the region. These violent clashes have overshadowed the Palestinian refugee problem, which was created as a result of the establishment of the State of Israel.



DR. KAMAL AL-LABWANI

<http://goo.gl/GoJnHh>

The UN Refugee Agency 9/26/2015

UNHCR Refugee Resettlement Trends 2015 UNHCR Refugee Resettlement Trends 2015



UNHCR

<http://goo.gl/C3bG9d>

The Washington Institute

9/30/2015

Toward a Realistic Assessment of the Gulf States Taking in Syrians

Much confusion surrounds the extent to which Arab Gulf states have taken in Syrians fleeing the country's war. Figures cited in recent weeks range from zero to the millions. Understanding the Gulf's absorption of Syrians thus far is important when considering how to maximize support for Syrian refugees from these wealthy, politically invested countries.



LORI PLOTKIN BOGHARDT

<http://goo.gl/88VbM7>**The Washington Institute**

9/30/2015

Initial Russian Strikes in Syria Are Not Targeting ISIS

The first wave of Russian airstrikes seemed to focus on rebel areas that threaten the Assad regime's Alawite heartland, showing that Moscow is more focused on seizing the mantle in Syria's war than fighting terrorists.



FABRICE BALANCHE

<http://goo.gl/VlxKzC>**The Washington Institute**

9/29/2015

Obama at the UN: Reality Dawning, But Diplomacy Without Teeth Remains His Response

Although the president's speech correctly diagnosed the latest grave challenges to the international order, he has yet to acknowledge that belligerent actors will not respond to U.S. diplomatic signals unless they are backed by U.S. military power.



JAMES F. JEFFREY

<http://goo.gl/P8WUMI>

The Washington Institute

9/23/2015

Latakia Is Assad's Achilles Heel

In light of its large Sunni population, the coastal city and its environs are not secure for the Syrian regime, possibly explaining why Russian forces are concentrating there.



FABRICE BALANCHE

<http://goo.gl/1D810w>**The Washington Post**

9/24/2015

Syrian crisis forcing a New York meeting between Obama and Putin

President Obama has not met one-on-one with President Vladimir Putin for more than 15 months but agreed Thursday to sit down with the Russian leader in New York on Monday as part of a broader effort to resolve the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine.



JULIET EILPERIN

<http://goo.gl/YA6F7g>**Transatlantic Academy**

8/15/2015

U.S. and EU Engagement with Islamists in the Middle East and North Africa

The Arab uprisings have reminded U.S. and EU diplomats that they need to communicate with Islamist actors in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Western diplomacy has undergone a modest yet nonetheless significant “religious turn” as a result, acknowledging the relevance of religion in foreign policy, particularly in this key region. While the United States has had a long history of both promoting religious freedom internationally and accommodating the political influence of domestic faith-based groups, the European Union has only recently started to account for religion in its external relations. This paper investigates the origins, evolution, and future prospects of this new approach within the context of the Middle East and North Africa, with a particular emphasis on engagement with Islamist religious and political actors.



SARAH WOLFF

<http://goo.gl/eaPMDU>

Wilson Center

9/18/2015

Are the U.S. and Russia Now on the Same Page About Syria?

Given that the U.S. and Russia are both operating militarily in Syria, Friday's discussions about how to minimize the chances for conflict make sense. But we should be under no illusions regarding Vladimir Putin's motives and the consequences of engaging Russia on the future of Syria.


**Wilson
Center**

AARON DAVID MILLER

<https://goo.gl/x6ESM1>
Wilson Center

9/28/2015

Why Putin's Move into Syria May Be One Step Too Far

In his United Nations speech on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin called on the world to join Russia's fight against terrorism while preserving Syria as a nation. He had already boldly forced the issue by sending troops, weapons, and aircraft to Syria in the expressed hope that the rest of the world would feel compelled to follow his lead.


**Wilson
Center**

WILLIAM E. POMERANZ

<https://goo.gl/KBnfUe>
Wilson Center

9/28/2015

Engaging Iran and Russia on Syria, the U.S. Has a Weak Hand

Almost nothing has worked for the Obama administration in Syria. So what's wrong with Washington's intention to engage both Russia and Iran on Syria this week at the UN General Assembly? After all, if the objective is to create a political transition to get Bashar al-Assad out and usher in some new and improved reality on the ground, why not deal with Mr. Assad's two main backers?

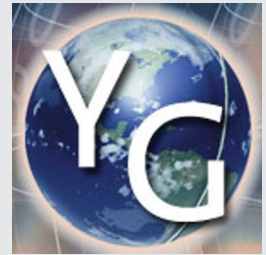

**Wilson
Center**

AARON DAVID MILLER

<https://goo.gl/yZZF9L>

Border Chaos: Europe Reacts To Syrian Refugee Crisis

European Union needs long-term policies on refugees, with no end in sight for suffering in Middle East or Africa.



CHRIS MILLER

<http://goo.gl/K1niDk>